IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Previously Presented)   A method for exchanging information between entities on a network comprising:

installing an annotation management system on the network;

identifying a plurality of annotatable data objects manipulated by a plurality of applications on the network, wherein the plurality of annotatable data objects comprise at least one of electrical schematics and mechanical schematics; and

providing, via the annotation management system, one or more interfaces for manipulating annotations for the annotatable data objects, a set of annotation structures each defining a set of annotation fields, and an annotation server configured to receive requests to access annotations for one or more of the annotatable data objects issued by at least one of the plurality of applications on the network, wherein the annotation server is further configured to generate, based on an annotation structure associated with the one or more annotatable data objects [[points]], the one or more interfaces for creating or viewing annotations.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein providing one or more interfaces comprises providing at least one interface for creating annotations and at least one interface for viewing annotations.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more interfaces comprise at least one graphical user interface.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one graphical user interface is accessible from within one or more of the applications.

5-11. (Canceled)

12.   (Previously Presented)   A method of creating annotations for a plurality of different type data objects manipulated by a plurality of applications, comprising:

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receiving a request from one of the applications to create an annotation for a data object, wherein the data object is identified by a set of <u>identifying</u> parameters;

selecting an annotation structure from a set of annotation structures, each annotation structure defining one or more annotation fields, wherein the selection is based, at least in part, on the set of identifying parameters identifying the data object to be annotated;

generating a graphical user interface allowing entry of the one or more annotation fields;

creating an index based on <u>the set</u> of [[one or more]] identifying parameters; and

creating an annotation record comprising the index and information entered, via the graphical user interface, for the one or more annotation fields.

13.   (Original)   The method of claim 12, further comprising storing the annotation record in an annotation store separate from the annotated data object.

14.   (Original)   The method of claim 12, wherein selecting the annotation structure comprises:

presenting, to a user, a plurality of annotation structures associated with the data object; and

receiving, from the user, a selection of one of the plurality of annotation structures.

15.   (Original)   The method of claim 14, further comprising receiving, from the user, a selected role in which the user has chosen to act.

16.   (Original)   The method of claim 15, wherein the plurality of annotation structures presented to the user is dependent on the selected role.

17.   (Original)   The method of claim 16, further comprising generating a graphical user interface for displaying the annotation information, wherein the annotation information presented to the user in the graphical user interface is dependent on the selected role.

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18.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable medium containing an executable component for managing annotations created for data objects manipulated by one or more applications on a network which, when executed by a processor, performs operations comprising:

receiving a request from one of the applications to create an annotation for a data object;

selecting an annotation structure from a set of annotation structures, each annotation structure defining one or more annotation fields, wherein the selection is based, at least in part, on a set of identifying parameters identifying the data object to be annotated or the application from which the request was received;

generating a graphical user interface screen allowing entry of the one or more annotation fields described by the structure; and

storing an annotation record comprising information entered, via the graphical user interface screen, for the one or more annotation fields in an annotation store separate from the annotated data object.

19.   (Original)   The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein receiving a request from one of the applications to create an annotation for a data object comprises receiving the request from a plug-in annotation component.

20.   (Original)   The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein selection of the annotation structure is based, at least in part, on one or more user credentials.

21.   (Previously Presented)   A system for managing annotations for one or more different type data sources manipulated by a plurality of different type applications, comprising:

an annotation database for storing annotations separately from the data sources associated with the annotations, wherein the one or more different type data sources comprise at least one of electrical schematics and mechanical schematics;

a set of annotatable data object points defining portions of the data sources associated with the annotations described by the associated annotations;

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a set of annotation structures, each defining a set of annotation fields;

a set of plug-in components, each for interfacing between one or more applications and an annotation server; and

an annotation server configured to receive, via the plug-in components, requests to access annotations for one or more of the annotatable data object points issued by the one or more of the applications running on the client computer and generate a graphical user interface screen, based on an annotation structure associated with the one or more of the annotatable data object points, for creating or viewing annotations for the one or more annotatable data object points.

22.   (Original)   The system of claim 21, wherein the one or more different type data sources comprise at least text documents and database tables.

23.   (Original)   The system of claim 22, wherein the annotatable data object points comprise at least one or more database cells, and one or more portions of text documents.

24.   (Original)   The system of claim 22, wherein the one or more different type data sources further comprise at least multimedia files and the annotatable data object points comprise at least an image.

25.   (Canceled)

26.   (Original)   The system of claim 21, wherein the annotation server is configured to create annotations with no direct association to any of the annotatable data object points.

27.   (Original)   The system of claim 21, wherein the annotation server is configured to create annotations associated with more than one of the data sources.

28.   (Original)   The system of claim 21, wherein the annotation server is configured to create more than one annotation for a single annotatable data point.

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